

**Borates (alternatives to Methyl Bromide)**  
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- 1 **Drywood termites in nature** generally live in undecayed wood which has a very low moisture content, however, in the relatively dry environment of a structure, drywood termites are attracted to a moisture source. This characteristic makes a treatment of liquid boron act as a type of bait pulling the termites to the moisture.
- 2 **Drywood termites cut** across the grain of the wood, excavating large chambers which are connected by small tunnels. The chambers and tunnels being used by the colony are kept clean. Excreta and other debris are stored in unused chambers and cast out through small openings in the wood that we refer to as "kick-out" holes. These kick out holes are an excellent place to inject borates so that they will travel through the galleries.
- 3 **The intent of the program** is to offer cost effective methods to treat or prevent termites and wood borers through strategic placement of borates. These methods can be used to supplement and often times replace conventional wood destroying treatments.
- 4 **Borate Treatment**  
*Advantages*
  - \* Treated wood can be painted, glued or sealed after drying.
  - \* Solution easily prepared and applied
  - \* Generally non-corrosive to metals.
  - \* Low acute mammalian toxicity.
  - \* Highly toxic to wood destroying organisms.
  - \* Long life once applied and absorbed; good residual.
  - \* Little to no odor.
  - \* Customer does not have to leave home.  
*Disadvantages*
  - \* Highly toxic to plant life.
  - \* Infested wood members must be accessible to application.
  - \* Borates seek moisture, thereby limiting its use to wood members not in direct contact with soil or subject to direct wetting conditions, ie. rain, sprinklers, water leaks, etc. unless properly sealed after treatment.
  - \* Cannot be used on painted surfaces; wood must be stripped of paint or drilled before application of borates.
  - \* Water can stain
  - \* Need specialized equipment
  - \* Need special training and knowledge.
- 5) **The challenge** is to treat enough of the right wood, therefore, we have concentrated our efforts on developing application equipment.